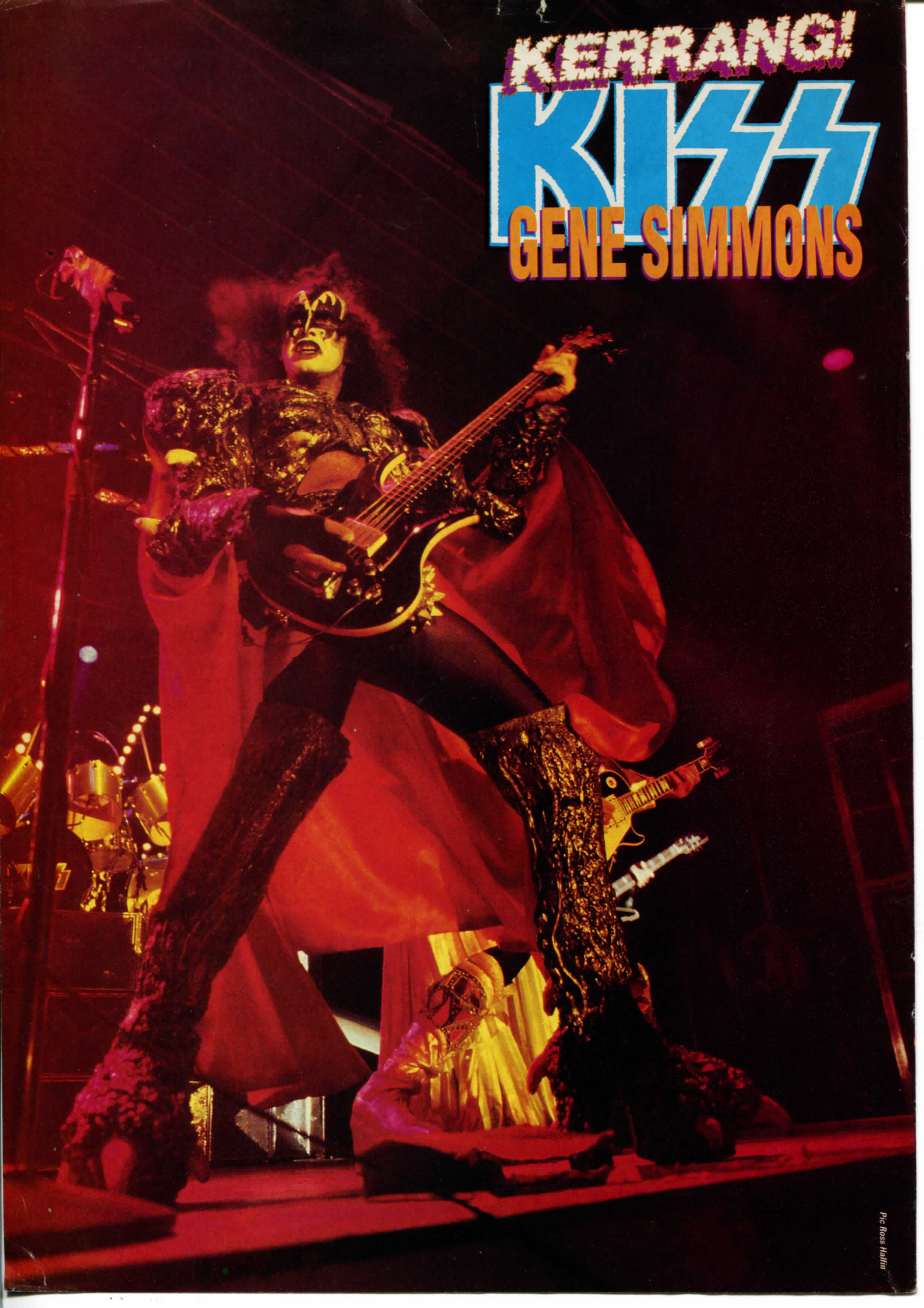
KERRANG!

THIS ART PRINT INSIDE!

KISS

KLASSIK 8-PAGE POSTER PULL-OUT!

Pic: Ross Halfin


KERRANG!
KISS
GENE SIMMONS
Pic Ross Halfin

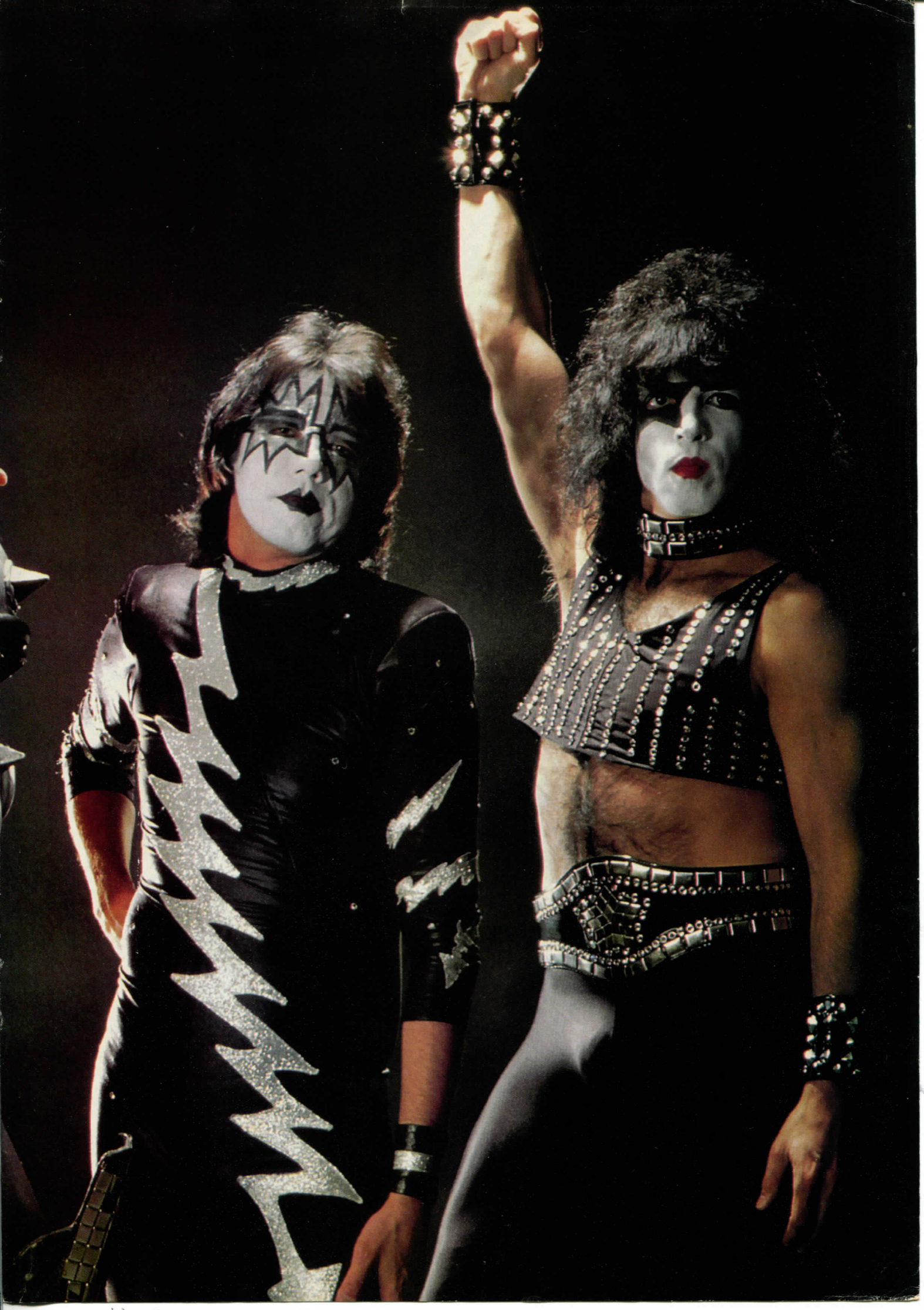
Pic Robert Ellis

KERRANG!

KISS

1981

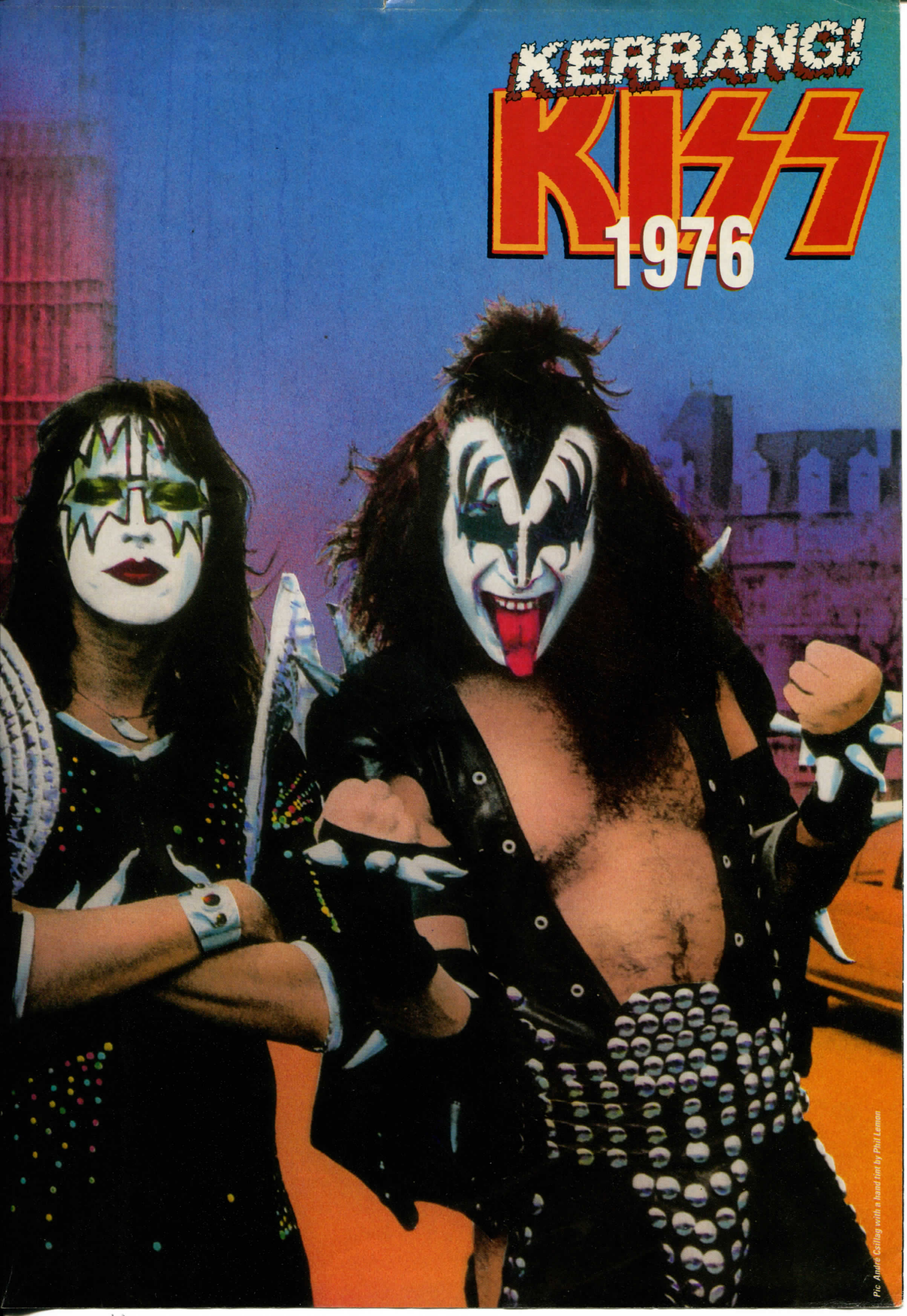
Pic London Features International



KERRANG!

KISS

1976



Pic: André Csillag with a hand tint by Phil Lemon

KOVERED WITH KISSES!

The long-awaited KISS tribute album, provocatively-titled 'Kiss My Ass', is released in June! And it ain't just Hard Rockers like Anthrax and Extreme who've contributed tracks – Country superstar Garth Brooks and Motown legend Stevie Wonder are kissin' ass too! Kiss legends PAUL STANLEY and GENE SIMMONS talk tributes 'n' strange trips with STEVE BEEBEE!

"THE SONGS on 'Kiss My Ass' are so diverse and fresh, they make the originals sound new again!" exclaims a buoyant Paul Stanley, head to toe in black leather.

"Truly great bands are influenced by all sorts of music, but bring in their own perspective too. I'm not surprised at the diversity of artists on the album. In fact, in terms of the variety, it reminds us of 'Destroyer'."

Released in 1976 at the height of Kissmania, 'Destroyer' is arguably Kiss' most ambitious album – a big production affair recorded with Bob Ezrin. It's a richly varied LP featuring such legendary tunes as the explosive anthem 'Detroit Rock City', the syrupy ballad 'Beth' and the rumbling epic 'God Of Thunder'.

"Being best known for a certain thing has never stopped us branching out into other areas," Paul explains. "Garth Brooks, for example, is a huge Kiss fan. He was one of the first people we approached regarding this album. We went to Nashville and recorded 'Hard Luck Woman' with him. Just being there, getting that country vibe, was a really positive experience."

Gene Simmons reflects: "We realised we'd really made it when our opening bands started covering 'Rock And Roll All Nite' rather than Chuck Berry or something. To paraphrase the Grateful Dead: what a strange trip it's been!"

"The cool thing about Kiss is that the music has always connected with people on different levels," says Paul. "Normally, when a tribute is made to someone, that person is either dead or dying. We're in the very lucky position of having this done while we're still very much in business! We didn't have to wait until we could see Saint Peter ahead!

"The initial aim of Kiss was just to play music. No one is paying tribute to a smokebomb or a stageshow! When we started out, we saw bands that sounded great and bands that only *looked* great. We figured we'd combine the best of both and make it as exciting as possible.

"I don't think we could ever have dreamed that 20 years later, we'd be sitting in London discussing an album recorded by other people as a tribute to us. We were just four knuckleheads from New York City!

"There are people who are keen to remind us that we've never received any awards, but they're missing the point. We need no vindication. We've had 20 years of awards, and if you wanna see 'em, go into a record store and look under 'Kiss'. Those albums: they're the real awards."

Pic Ross Halfin

KERRANG! KISS